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REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT The Kolkhoz i/n Chapayev

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1. The Kolkhoz i/n Chapayev was located at Slout N 51-45, E 33-487, Sumskaya Oblast', Ukrainian SSR. Of its approximately 5,000 hectares of arable land, about 1,000 hectares were chernozem, about 2,500 hectares were gray sandy soil (seropeschanaya), and about 1,500 hectares were sandy soil.
2. At the head of the kolkhoz was a chairman (predsedatel') who was selected, I believe, by the Rayon Executive Committee (Rayonnyy ispolnitel'nyy komitet - RayIspolKom) and voted for by the members of the kolkhoz. Assisting the kolkhoz chairman in the operation of the kolkhoz was the following staff:
 - a. Administrative chief (Zavedyyushchiy khozyastva - ZavKhoz)
 - b. Chief (polevod) of all plowing, seeding, and harvesting operations.
 - c. Agronomist; he was one of two on the chairman's staff who was not selected by the chairman but was appointed by the State for the kolkhoz.
 - d. Veterinary assistant (zootekhnik); he was the second man on the chairman's staff who was not selected by the chairman but was State appointed.
 - e. Chief of raising and breeding of all livestock.
 - f. Accountant (bukhgalter); in charge of keeping all records of the kolkhoz.

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- g. Bookkeeper (schetovod); responsible for determining payments for work-days (trudodni) and for keeping track of kolkhoz equipment.
- h. Records clerk (uchetchik); kept records of the number of trudodni earned by the kolkhozniki, receiving the information from the various brigade leaders.
- i. In 1950, there were 14 brigade leaders (brigadiri): 11 in charge of 11 agricultural brigades; one in charge of the truck garden brigade; one in charge of a carpenter brigade; and one at the head of the road repair brigade. In 1952, I learned from letters that the brigades were reduced in number as follows: Eight brigade leaders (brigadiri) were in charge of the five agricultural brigades, with one heading the truck garden brigade, one the carpenter brigade, and one the road repair brigade.

I think that, with the exception of the kolkhoz chairman and, perhaps, the agronomist and the veterinary assistant, none of the above-mentioned people received payment in money; instead, I believe each of them had a fixed number of trudodni for the job which he performed. I do not, however, know what payments any of them received.

3. The principal crop raised by our kolkhoz was rye of which about 1,100 hectares were planted. Summer wheat was the second most important grain raised by the kolkhoz, but I cannot estimate the number of hectares sown. About 500 hectares of land were planted with potatoes. Among the other crops raised by the kolkhoz were barley, millet, buckwheat, corn, oats, vetch, hemp, sugar and fodder beets, and various vegetables. I cannot estimate the number of hectares sown with each of these. I cannot estimate harvest losses, but it was common knowledge that they were greater under the Soviets than under the Germans, mainly because of the indifference and carelessness under the Soviet system of collectivization. I cannot give even a rough estimate of crop yields. During the German occupation, when the land was divided among the kolkhozniki, the kolkhoz had a very large harvest. In 1946, because of a drought and because of the lack of horses and equipment, the harvest was extremely poor. Since 1946, however, the harvest had increased each year; although I left the kolkhoz in March 1950, I learned through letters from home that the 1950 harvest had been the best since the end of World War II. I do not know about any harvest since the one of 1950. From what little I can recall from letters from home, however, none of the postwar harvests was as large as the harvests under the German occupation.
4. The livestock on the Kolkhoz i/n Chapayev consisted of about 500 head of cattle, of which about 100 were milk cows, sheep, swine, and calves. There were also seven workhorses, compared to 22 before World War II; after the Soviets reinstated the kolkhoz after the German retreat, many of the horses died because of the negligence and indifference of the kolkhozniki. The kolkhoz also had some chickens and geese, but I cannot give even a rough estimate of the number.
5. Of the approximately 1,500 people on the kolkhoz, about 1,000 were considered able-bodied workers. Able-bodied workers were considered to be those men and women over the age of 16 and up to the age of 55 (for women) and 65 (for men). The yearly minimum of trudodni expected of women was 120; the yearly minimum expected of men was 200. Failure to fulfill the yearly minimum of trudodni was punishable by six months of work on the kolkhoz without pay. The average number of trudodni earned by women was 150 to 200, with some few earning up to 300; the average number of trudodni earned by men was about 400, with some few earning as much as 500. I can only recall the following

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ratios between tasks and the number of trudodni earned:

- a. $1\frac{1}{2}$ trudodni for plowing 6/10 (60 sotok) of a hectare.
- b. 1.75 trudodni for mowing 4/10 (40 sotok) of a hectare of hay.
- c. Two trudodni for mowing 6/10 (60 sotok) of a hectare of rye.
- d. Two trudodni for harvesting four hectares of rye with a horse-drawn reaper.
- e. 1.25 trudodni per day for miscellaneous jobs.

I can only give the payment for trudodni as of the end of 1949. In 1943, after the Germans had retreated, a temporary kolkhoz chairman gave the kolkhozniki 600 g. of grain per trudoden. He was soon arrested, tried, and sentenced for giving "collaborators" so much grain. The stigma of collaboration was attached to our region because we did not fight the Germans and were only too happy to have the land given us. We were told that the meager trudoden payment from 1944 to 1946 was punishment for our "collaboration" with the Germans. The following were the work-day (trudoden) payments for the years 1944 to 1949:

- a. 1944: 300 g. per trudoden.
- b. 1945: 300 g. per trudoden.
- c. 1946: 300 g. per trudoden.
- d. 1947: 350 g. per trudoden.
- e. 1948: 400 g. per trudoden.
- f. 1949: 500 g. per trudoden.

For the grain delivered to the state, the kolkhoz received two rubles per centner (100 kg.). The kolkhoz also paid the machine-tractor station (MTS) for the use of tractors and combines and paid the tractor and combine operators; tractor operators received three kilograms of grain per trudoden plus some money; combine operators received a little more.

6. Since all tractors and combines were supplied by the machine-tractor station, the kolkhoz owned none of this equipment. The tractors used by the MTS were mostly postwar Natic kerosene-driven, caterpillar tractors. Other types I saw were prewar KhtZ kerosene-driven, wheeled tractors and prewar Universal kerosene-driven, wheeled tractors. The kolkhoz had three trucks: one GAZ $1\frac{1}{2}$ -tn. truck, one ZIS-5 3-t. truck, and one Dodge $2\frac{1}{2}$ -tn. truck. The only difficulty encountered with these three trucks was a lack of spare parts for the American-made Dodge truck. Other equipment which the kolkhoz had included 11 hay mowers, 11 horse-drawn sowing machines, 22 cultivators, and 33 double plows. Most of the work was done by tractor, but much of the sowing and harvesting was done by hand.
7. Each kolkhoz family had 3/10 (30 sotok) of a hectare of land for its own use. Most kolkhozniki planted potatoes on their own plots of land and lesser amounts of other vegetables, and some few kolkhozniki even planted rye. Most families had a cow and some chickens, and some even had swine. The potatoes and vegetables were kept for their own consumption, but if any livestock were killed it was invariably for sale on the open market (bazar). Kolkhozniki had to pay taxes for use of these private plots of land. It always was a mystery to all of us how we ever managed to pay these taxes, but I think the

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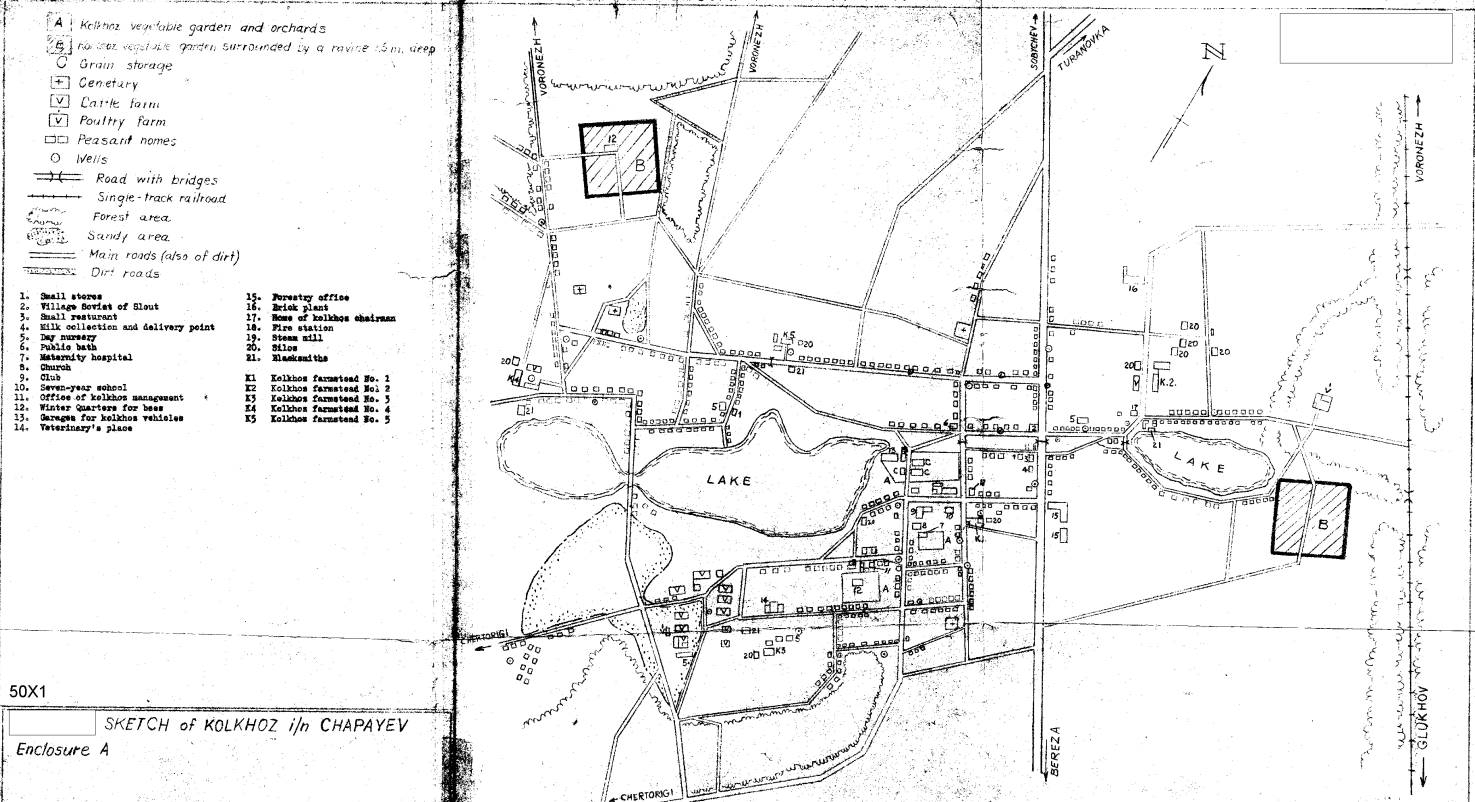
money and goods were usually obtained by stealing, speculation, and selling products on the open market. The following are the yearly taxes which I can recall, and I believe the list is fairly complete:

- a. Every kolkhoznik was expected to sign up for a Government loan of 200 to 300 rubles a year.
- b. Each kolkhoznik paid some money to the state for the vegetables he raised on his individual plot of land.
- c. Three centners (100 kg.) of potatoes.
- d. 40 kg. of meat.
- e. 90 eggs.
- f. 250 lit. of milk, if one had a cow.
- g. A type of agricultural tax which came to 300 to 350 rubles if one did not have a cow, 500 rubles if one had a cow; if one had a cow and a sow, he had to pay 1,200 rubles.
- h. About 50 rubles for use of living quarters.
- i. In addition there was a tax on bachelors, starting from 20 years of age, childless couples, and couples with less than three children. In 1949 these taxes amounted to the following:
 - (1) Bachelors, 150 rubles.
 - (2) Childless couple, 150 rubles.
 - (3) Couple with one child, 100 rubles.
 - (4) Couple with two children, 50 rubles.

Encl. A. Sketch of Kolkhoz i/n Chapayev

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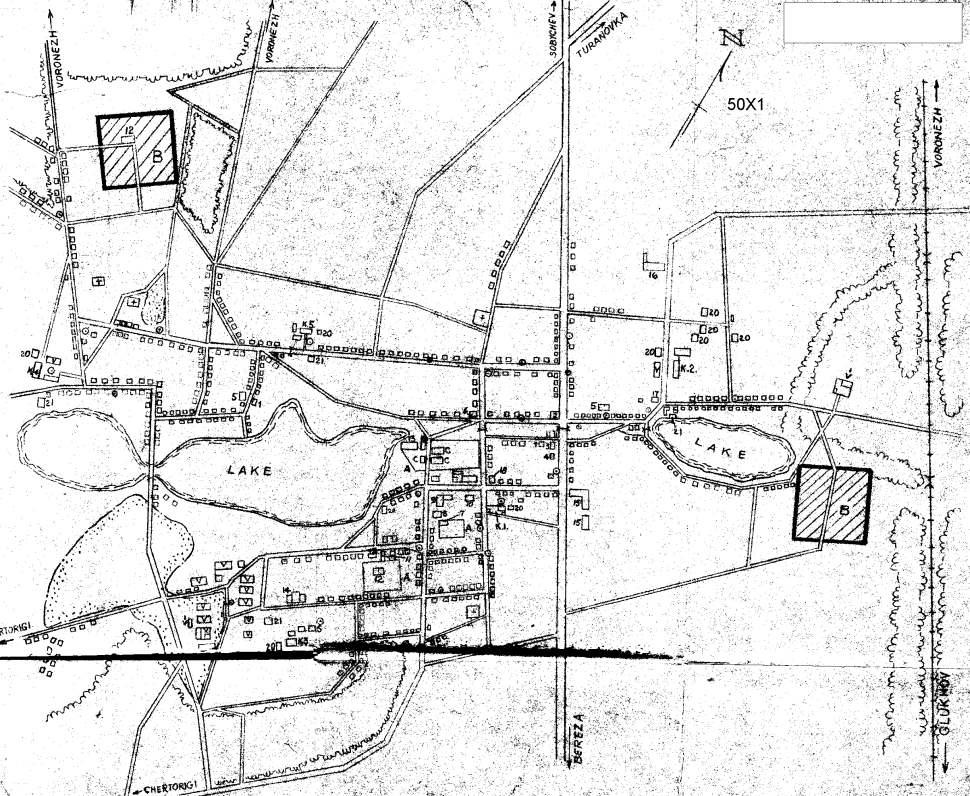


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SKETCH of KOLKHOZ i/n CHAPAYEV
Enclosure A

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- A Kolkhoz vegetable garden and brehards
 B Kolkhoz vegetable garden surrounded by a ravine 15 m. deep
 C Grain storage
 D Cemetery
 E Cattle farm
 F Poultry farm
 G Peasant homes
 H Wells
 I Road with bridges
 J Single-track railroad
 K Forest area
 L Sandy area
 M Main roads (also of dirt)
 N Dirt roads
1. Small stores
 2. Village Soviet of Kolkhoz
 3. Small restaurant
 4. Milk collection and delivery point
 5. Day nursery
 6. Public bath
 7. Maternity hospital
 8. Church
 9. Club
 10. Seven-year school
 11. Office of kolkhoz management
 12. Beehive gardens for bees
 13. Garages for kolkhoz vehicles
 14. Veterinary's place
 15. Forestry office
 16. Brick plant
 17. Home of kolkhoz chairman
 18. View station
 19. Steam mill
 20. Silos
 21. Blacksmiths
 22. Kolkhoz farmstead No. 1
 23. Kolkhoz farmstead No. 2
 24. Kolkhoz farmstead No. 3
 25. Kolkhoz farmstead No. 4
 26. Kolkhoz farmstead No. 5



SKETCH of KOLKHOZ in CHAPAYEV

Enclosure A

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